

US-131 Improvement Study

Public Information Meeting

November 28, 2007
Constantine, MI



Welcome

Welcome to this Public Information Meeting for the US-131 Improvement Study

This meeting will use an open house format. Please feel free to view the exhibits at your own pace. Members of the Study Team, who are wearing nametags, are available to speak one-on-one with you regarding any questions or comments you have. Please sign-in and add your name to the project mailing list to receive updates and notices for future meetings.

The Michigan Department of Transportation also encourages you to fill out a comment form and deposit it in one of the comment boxes placed around the room.

Thank you for your participation and comments in the US-131 Improvement Study.

Community Involvement Workshop

Responses

The following are responses received through comment forms from the Community Involvement Workshop held May 29, 2007.

Walls

- Stone Walls
- Field Stone
- Corn Rows
- Soybeans
- Flowers
- Dark Wood
- Dark Concrete

Signage

- Low
- Neon Corn Board

Bridges

- Stamped with Grasses

Landscaping

- Short-grasses
- Trees & Vegetation
- Farms & Rural Homes
- Evergreens



Fences

- Farm Fencing

Guard Rail

- Woven Corn Stalks

Lighting

- Reflective of the Art Community
- Traditional
- Fluorescent
- Corn Shaped
- Low-lighting

Theme Responses

Agriculture



The Arts

Tourism



Corn

The Rivers



Non-Motorized Responses

Where would you like to see more non-motorized paths & trails?

- Near the school area (between Stears and Riverside)
- Near the waterways
- Near the boardwalk



Additional Comments

- Cycle lanes downtown
- Removing truck-traffic would draw non-motorists downtown



View Of/From Road

Walls: Retaining & Screening



Earth

Rocks



Plants

Streetscaping

Benches



Sidewalks



Street Decor



Bridge Responses

The following are responses received through comment forms from the Community Involvement Workshop held May 29, 2007.

Bridge Lighting

- Match downtown lights
- Not too bright

Bridge Texture

- Stone
- “Brushed” grass theme

Bridge Color

- Black
- Cement
- Brown

Bridge Theme Goal

- Walking tour

Bridge Railing

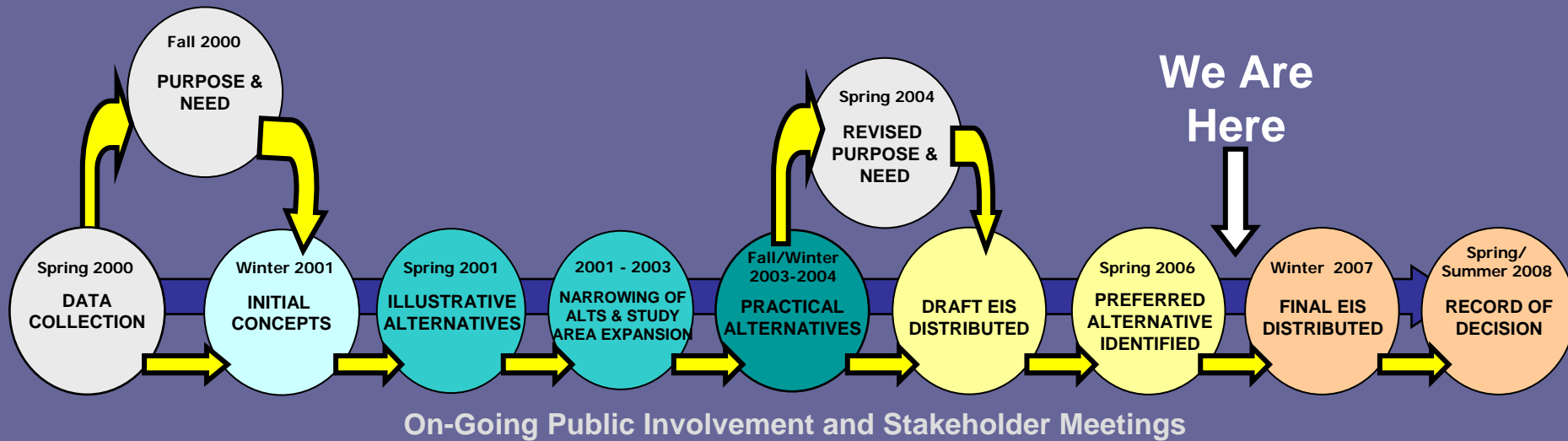
- Black
- Cement
- Round tubing
- Open-railing

Additional Bridge Features

- Wider walk-way
- Bike friendly
- Showcase parks
- Two-lanes



Study Process



Practical Alternative 5

- PA-5 has been selected as the Preferred Alternative
- The Preferred Alternative will provide a bypass of the Village of Constantine
- All existing roads that would cross the Preferred Alternative will have at grade intersections with full access except Stears Road
- Stears Road would “T” into the bypass



Practical Alternative 5

- Stears Road, Millers Mill Road, and Quarterline Road will be cul-de-saced.
- The Preferred Alternative requires a new two lane bridge crossing of the St. Joseph River east of Blue School Road



Practical Alternative 5

- The new St. Joseph River structure will be 870 feet; six spans with two piers in the water
- Existing US-131 would be maintained by MDOT as a Business Route through Constantine



Practical Alternative 5

- 12-foot wide truck climbing lanes would be added in each direction north of Garber Road
- Where the Preferred Alternative utilizes the US-131 alignment, minor improvements will be implemented to bring the existing alignment up to current MDOT standards

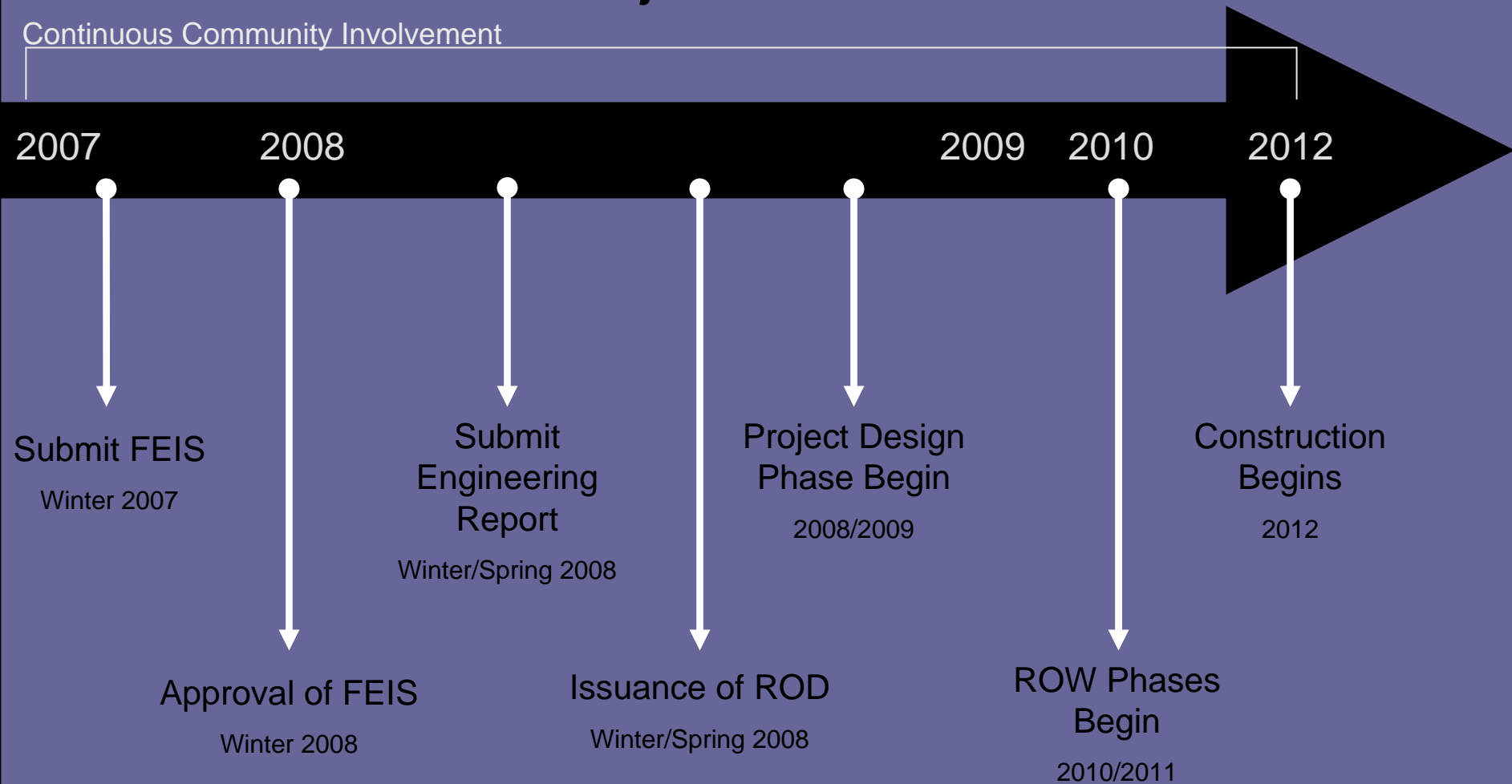


Summary of Impacts Matrix

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Potential Impacts	No-Build Alternative	Preferred Alternative (PA-5)
Residential Impacts	0	36 acres
Farmland Impacts	0	132 acres
Agricultural Parcel Splits (number)	0	6
Community Facility Relocations	0	0
Residential Relocations	0	12
Commercial Relocations	0	0
Wetland Sites	0	2
Total Wetland Impacts	0	1.5 acres
Threatened and Endangered Species	0	0
Potential Historic Sites	0	0
Parks and Recreation	0	0
Potential Contaminated Sites	0	2
Total Estimated Cost* (\$2007 Millions)	0	\$ 31 Million
*Cost Estimates include, preliminary engineering, construction engineering, pavement, earthwork, structures and right-of-way for the Constantine bypass and truck-climbing lanes only		

Project Timeline

Continuous Community Involvement



- FEIS-Final Environmental Impact Statement
- ROD-Record of Decision
- ROW-Right of Way



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